

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An apparatus for processing image data and playlist data indicating a playback procedure of the image data, the apparatus comprising:

playlist processing means for generating playlist data based on a specified playback procedure for image data, and for generating date information of the playlist data based on date information regarding the image data specified in the playlist data; and

recording means for recording the playlist data and the date information of the playlist data in association with each other on a recording medium.

2. An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the recording means generates a playlist file including the playlist data and the date information of the playlist data, and records the playlist file on the recording medium.

3. An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the date information of the playlist indicates a generation date of the playlist data.

4. An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the playlist processing means generates date information of the

playlist data based on date information of image data that is to be played back first among the image data specified in the playlist data.

5. An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the playlist processing means generates date information of the playlist data based on date information of image data that is to be played back last among the image data specified in the playlist data.

6. An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the playlist processing means generates date information of the playlist data based on date information of image data having date information indicating an oldest date among the image data specified in the playlist data.

7. An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the playlist processing means generates date information of the playlist data based on date information of image data having date information indicating a latest date among the image data specified in the playlist data.

8. An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the playlist processing means further generates thumbnail image data of the playlist data based on the image data specified

in the playlist data, and the recording means further records the thumbnail image data of the playlist data in association with the playlist data on the recording medium.

9. An apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein the playlist processing means generates date information of the playlist data based on date information of image data selected from the image data specified in the playlist data, and generates thumbnail image data of the playlist data based on the image data selected.

10. An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the playlist processing means further generates recording-position information of the playlist data based on position information indicating a recording position regarding the image data specified in the playlist data, and the recording means further records the recording-position information of the playlist data in association with the playlist data on the recording medium.

11. An apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein the playlist processing means generates date information of the playlist data based on date information of image data selected from the image data specified in the playlist data, and generates recording-position information of the playlist

data based on position information of the image data selected.

12. An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the image data specified in the playlist data is recorded on the recording medium.

13. An apparatus according to Claim 12, further comprising display control means for displaying information regarding the image data and information regarding the playlist data recorded on the recording medium, in an order based on the date information.

14. An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the recording medium is a recording medium that allows random access.

15. A signal processing method for processing image data and playlist data indicating a playback procedure of the image data, the method comprising the steps of:

generating playlist data based on a specified playback procedure, and generating date information of the playlist data based on date information regarding image data specified in the playlist data; and

recording the playlist data and the date information of

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the playlist data in association with each other on a recording medium.